

## Facility Utilization by County

(Top Five Importing Counties)

This analysis identifies Florida's facility utilization by tracking the cross-county movement of patients and determining where patients seek their healthcare. The data for this analysis comes from the 2008 Inpatient Discharge data collected by the Florida Center for Health Information and Policy Analysis at the Agency for Health Care Administration.

In order to analyze the data in the most efficient manner, importing counties were identified. Importing counties are defined as facility counties with the largest number of out-of-county discharges. Out-of-county discharges are determined by aggregating the total number of discharges within each facility county and subtracting all discharges matching patient county (county of residence) to facility county. Only the discharges from patient counties outside of the facility county are included in the measure identifying importing counties. The **Top Five Importing Counties** are the counties with the five largest total number of out-of-county discharges.

### Tools for Interpretation of the Data

#### -Excel Worksheet

The Excel worksheet is interactive and allows users to select from a list of the top five importing facility counties. When a facility county is selected a summary of the discharge information from each patient county and each patient state is automatically populated in two separate tables. Patient county and patient state are defined using zip codes which reference the United States Postal Service database. Zip codes equaling 00007 relate to homeless patients, 00009 foreign patients, and 00000 is unknown area of residence. Each county is categorized by the percent of the total number of patient county and patient state discharges, and is ordered from highest to lowest.

#### -Maps

The number of discharges within each importing county is illustrated through choropleth mapping. In this analysis, choropleth mapping uses different shades of blue to represent different ranges of discharges from geographic areas. The darkest shade of blue represents the patient county with the largest number of discharges for the selected importing county. The ranges are consistent for each map, with the darkest shade representing 25,000 to 10,000 discharges and the lightest shade 499 to 1 discharge. Counties left uncolored did not have any discharges within the selected importing county.